

KDNL has not had a locally produced news program in over a year. Why is Sinclair Broadcasting allowed to dictate what can be aired by our local station, if they will not invest in local programming?

For example, Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Please schedule a public meeting as soon as possible in St. Louis to discuss the licensing of KDNL. The citizens of St. Louis have a right to confront the owners of this station with their lack of interest in staffing and producing local news. I expect this meeting to be well publicized in advance, so as many St. Louisans as possible can attend.

Thank you.